

All On Board



Fleet Training

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Welcome

Welcome to this edition of the SOBT Newsletter. On occasion, a product slips through that has technical errors. This was the case of the SSN 688 6L16E AEOG training product. However, because of feedback from the Fleet, we were able to pull this product from our library and get the right resources to correct these technical deficiencies. That is why your feedback is so important to us, to not only ensure our products are providing the information you need, but also for your ideas for new products. The easiest way

to provide this feedback is through our feedback forum on the COMSUBPAC website (<https://www.csp.navy.smil.mil/JFORUM/forums/list.page#cat9>). This feedback goes directly from you to us at SOBT and SLC. There is no middle man to decide where to send the feedback. There are no formal procedures, just tell us what you feel would be an improvement, or what errors you found, or your idea for a new product. When we get your feedback, we take it for action.

The final approval of SEAWARE has not been without challenges. SOBT identified Group Policy setting errors on two boats during testing and validation of installation procedures. Procedures were revised and SEAWARE successfully completed its second installation. As SOBT has been saying for a while in this newsletter, SEAWARE will make training easier to access and accomplish. We have also conducted visits to 5 of 6 submarine homeports to provide training to commands on the benefits of SEAWARE and

how to use it. With the use of SOBT products for qualifications, we want access to our training products to be intuitive – click a button and start training!

As time passes, changes occur, and so do the SOBT priorities. At one time, the SOBT simulators, such as SUBSKILLSNET, CBOT, SBOT, and ENGSKILLSNET were our main focus, and with that went a large part of our budget. Now, with Ship and Watchstation qualifications a priority, we have shifted our focus to that area. As we develop and update the SOBT products your feedback is critical to helping to make the SOBT courses meet the needs of the Fleet.

Commanding Officer
Submarine Learning Center

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Director's Note

This newsletter will be my last as the SOBT Director. CDR Porterfield will be relieving me in December 2012. My tour at SOBT has been very rewarding and I hope the changes that we have been able to put in place will benefit the Fleet in the years to come.

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I think it is important for everyone to pause in their assigned duties periodically and reflect on where they have been, where they are, and where they are going. This is important because it is very difficult to see progress on a daily basis, but when you look at it over time it becomes very plain to see. SOBT is no different.

Here are some changes that you may not know. SOBT made real progress to improve the accessibility of SOBT courses to commands. 1) All submarines are now receiving an updated catalog with each quarterly distribution. No more tracking down the SOBT coordinator on the boat to check out a CD-ROM. Each course can be accessed by multiple people at the same time from the SUB-LAN. 2) Trident off-crews will now be able to access SOBT courses from SIPR machines in the Off-Crew Administration Building (OCAB) and will no longer have to manage the SOBT CD library. 3) For the Submarine Learning Facilities, SOBT is pursuing loading our catalog on a centralized server that will be accessible to all learning sites.

SOBT has also made programmatic changes that will have a lasting impact on the quality of our courses. First, SOBT completed a comprehensive review of all our courses by subject matter experts at each Submarine Learning Facility. Their feedback is the foundation that SOBT uses to generate our priority list for courseware updates. Second, SOBT is nearing completion of a Learning Management System (LMS) named SEAWARE that will be deployed on submarines. This LMS will provide Sailors the ability to track their progress, record completion data to FLT MPS, and restart a course from where they left off. Perhaps, the greatest benefit to the Navy will be the ease at which Sailors will be able to communicate feedback to SOBT. This feedback is critical to ensuring the Fleet continues to receive the highest quality training material.

SOBT has also begun to expand its inventory of training materials to include video products, including videos for APB-09 and APB-11 combat systems, training for diesel maintenance, and the vid-

eo detailing the lessons learned from the fire on the USS Bonefish.

Submarine On Board Training exists to provide Sailors afloat with the training materials that help them achieve excellence in qualifications, operations, and maintenance. The success of the program depends on effective two-way communication. Don't hesitate to pick up the phone and call us or send us an email. Your input is heard and highly valued.

SOBT Director

Wardroom

Contact Manager

When it comes to contact management for submarines, the old adage that guidance and procedures are written in blood still holds true. As a result of recent incidents, major changes to contact management for submarines have been implemented. One critical element of those changes is the Contact Manager; a dedicated watch stander to supervise the contact management team. If you are pursuing qualifications in this new watch station, SOBT has changed the name and completely revised the former Contact Coordinator product to provide education and training for Contact Managers.

SS Contact Coordinator DODUSNSLCSOBT_98115 Version 3.00 is now titled SS Contact Manager DODUSNSLCSOBT 98115 Version 4.00. SS Contact Manager is approximately four hours of training on the basic subjects and procedures required to qualify as a Contact Manager. The first lesson covers the principles of contact management to include the contact management team, contacts of concern and interest, tripwires, contact correlation, and managing contact data. There is a comprehensive knowledge examination and interactive scenarios to assess the learner's retention of the material presented. Scenarios

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On the Cover:
The ballistic missile submarine USS Rhode Island (SSBN 740) travels by the coast near Norfolk, Va. as the sun rises in the background.



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include the unique challenges of contact management when operating on the surface and at or below periscope depth.

Strategic Weapons/Wardroom

SEAWARE

SEAWARE is SOBT's Learning Management System (LMS) developed by Naval Undersea Warfare Center Newport with the SOBT office. Its purpose is to provide the Fleet with the ability to track SOBT courseware completion as well as provide an easy-to-use, more organized user interface. SEAWARE is the first LMS developed specifically for SOBT and compatibility within the SubLAN environment. Programmers worked closely with SOBT Distance Support to develop the software which provided direct access to the experts (allows for future customization).

In 2011 a SEAWARE prototype was tested on 4 platforms to gauge usability, operability, and obtain feedback. During this time SEAWARE was operational for over 5,000 hours with zero downtime. Sailor feedback from this testing phase directly resulted in programming changes like Single Sign-On (using LAN account for login), which will be in the Fleet release. Responses from all four test platforms were very positive and reflected ease of use.

Tracking courseware completion has many benefits, such as allowing supervisors to better track qualifications and ensuring piloting teams have reviewed piloting briefs prior to entering port. SOBT will use the metric data collected to identify course usage and maximize the quality of our training. More importantly, SEAWARE provides avenues for the Fleet to provide feedback to SOBT on which products are liked, disliked, and report inaccuracies in products so that courseware can be fixed to meet Fleet needs. All completion data is uploaded to FLT MPS and viewable within a Sailor's electronic training jacket.

SEAWARE has several key distinctions from other programs that commands are required to use. It

will come prepopulated with your commands roster to minimize time required to get installed and become operational. Along with easy to follow quick-guides, videos are embedded within SEAWARE to demonstrate using the product. Ergonomics were evaluated to ensure simply work flow and an uncomplicated user experience. Finally, its webpage styling closely resembles SOBT's current homepage so users will have a general familiarity with the product.

SEAWARE will be delivered to the Fleet via the ship's quarterly SOBT hard drive. Installation is conducted after copying the SEAWARE files to the SubLAN AP2 server via standard windows setup files. Although there are setup files to streamline setting up SEAWARE, no system level .ini files are utilized. The entire installation process is non-intrusive to other SubLAN certified applications thus reducing the potential of negative impact. Should any problems arise; LAN Administrators will have troubleshooting videos available to them both on the locally held SOBT hard drive and within SEAWARE.

We look forward to providing the Fleet with a new and powerful way to utilize SOBT in the future. Please provide us any feedback regarding SEAWARE so that we may continue to tailor it to your needs. SEAWARE is a product by the Fleet for the Fleet .

SOBT Master Chief

SONAR

Two SONAR training products have been completed and will be distributed to the Fleet with the December distribution. The first is SS JO Sonar (DODUSNSLCSOBT_00021); this module provides training to Junior Officers qualifying OOD. Specific lessons to be covered within this module include: Sonar Principles and Sonar Systems. The Sonar Principles lesson will cover Sound Propagation, Wavelength Theory, Passive SONAR Equation, and Active SONAR Equation. The Sonar Systems lesson will cover the Fundamentals and Functions of Sonar Systems.

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The second new product is SSN 774 Sonar Watch Principles (DODUSNSLCSOBT_05035). This module teaches junior enlisted personnel qualifying as a Sonar Operator the required knowledge of sonar watch principles. This module is geared toward Virginia Class Submarines but most of the information is relevant to all classes of submarines that employ AN/BQQ-10 TI-08 APB09 and newer Sonar Systems. Specific topics to be covered within this module include: Organization, Duties, and Responsibilities, Manning Requirements, Relief Procedures, Classification Objectives, Watch Section Routines, and Reporting Procedures.

The following courses are currently under revision and your input is welcome:

- ◆ SSN 688 BSQ Sonar Systems (DODUSNSLCSOBT_97049)
- ◆ SSN 774 Basic SONAR Operator (DODUSNSLCSOBT_07023)
- ◆ SSN 774 Sonar Supervisor Volume 1 (DODUSNSLCSOBT_08032)
- ◆ SS PNB Theory (DODUSNSLCSOBT_06031)
- ◆ SS Mental TMA Techniques (DODUSNSLCSOBT_96079)
- ◆ SS Sound Silencing (DODUSNSLCSOBT_06006)
- ◆ SS Towed Array TMA Techniques (DODUSNSLCSOBT_96002)

Sonar Project Manager

Communications

Here's a look at what the communications side of SOBT has been doing.

The SSN 688 BSQ Radio, ES and Radar (DODUSNSLCSOBT_97041) has been updated and revised. This course provides SSN 688 Class Submarine Qualification Program training on Radio, ES, and Radar.

We are currently developing a new course titled SS Advanced Electronic Warfare System (ES) Operator (DODUSNSLCSOBT_12007). This course will cover the operator's watch routines and responsibilities during normal watch operations. Other topics that will be covered will be administrative requirements (logs, records, reports etc.), Watchstation doctrine (voice reports and time requirements), equipment design (WLR-8/BLQ-10), ES Parameters, PD operations, and submarine ES lessons learned. Expected delivery to the Fleet is late summer 2013.

We are constantly updating and producing SOBT products, so feel free to send feedback if you find any issues in any of the communications products, such as outdated or obsolete information, or if you have an idea for a new product to be produced. I am always looking for ways to make our products more accurate and engaging.

Communications Project Manager

Auxiliary Division Training

SOBT is converting the SSBN SSGN 6L16D Operator Maintenance Course from its CMI (Computer Managed Instruction), to a SCORM 2004 format. The course is expected to be complete in the fall of 2013, and Fleet input is welcome. The SCORM 2004 format will allow the courseware to be run on the shipboard and schoolhouse LANS, and will facilitate tracking, progress and completion of the courseware. The trainee will be able to print a certificate of completion with their final score. This courseware is a prerequisite for the formal schoolhouse course A-652-0050.

Basic Submarine Qualification (BSQ) Products

In meeting SOBT's goal of providing quality training products to the submarine Fleet, we request the end user to provide feedback on products they have completed. Your feedback both good and bad provides valuable information to the SOBT Team and enables us to make changes to meet your training needs.

MHM&E Project Manager